



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 3, 1992

Mr. George A. Staples, Jr.  
City Attorney  
City of Hurst  
701 Texas Commerce Bank Building  
860 Airport Freeway West  
Hurst, Texas 76054

OR92-3

Dear Mr. Staples:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, article 6252-17a, V.T.C.S. Your request was assigned ID# 14409.

You have received a request for certain bail bonding information. Specifically, the requestor seeks "a listing of each individual who has bonded out of your jail the previous day." The requestor asks that this information be provided "for bi-weekly procurement" and that it include:

- 1) First and last name.
- 2) Mailing address. (do not include zip code)
- 3) Arrest date.
- 4) Charge(s).
- 5) Bond date.

You explain that the exact information requested is unclear. You claim that you are not obligated to make available information which does not yet exist.

We agree that the request for information is vague. A governmental body, however, is obligated to make a good faith effort to relate a request to information which it holds. Open Records Decision No. 561 (1990) at 8. When a governmental

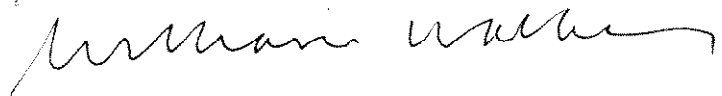
body is presented with an unclear request for information rather than for specific records, it should advise the requestor of the types of information available so that he may narrow his request. *Id.* at 9. Once you have clarified the contents of the request, you must release the requested information within ten days or request an open records decision from this office.

Because the requestor may very well be seeking information already in existence, we address the availability of the kind of information requested. Bail bonding information is the kind of information specifically made public in *Houston Chronicle Publishing Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177, 186-187 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), writ *ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976). See also Open Records Decision Nos. 366 (1983); 127 (1976). Accordingly, existing bail bonding information must be released.

We note that the requestor seeks information on a "standing basis." A governmental body need not comply with a standing request to provide information on a periodic basis. Open Records Decision No. 465 (1987) n.1. Similarly, a governmental body need not treat a request as embracing information prepared after the request was made, or to inform the requestor subsequently when the information does come into existence. Open Records Decision No. 452 (1986) at 3. We conclude, then, that you need not respond to the request to the extent that it seeks information not yet in existence.

Because case law and prior published open records decisions resolve your request, we are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. If you have questions about this ruling, please refer to OR92-3.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'William Walker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William Walker  
Assistant Attorney General  
Opinion Committee

WW/GK/lcd

Ref.: ID# 14409

cc: Mr Patrick R. Bender  
Direct Marketing, P.C.  
332 Valley Spring Road  
Arlington, Texas 76018